But this question should be deferred to the next day until the Government receives the reply.

SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI: It would be better because the Government has not received any reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister hopes to receive a reply.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know better than I do about an Embassy. The moment this came, we have sent it to the Embassy to get a copy of the report. ...*(Interruptions)*... We have asked for a copy of the report. When the report comes, I will give it.

SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI: About corruption, the Chairman knows everything. I would like the Minister to agree to defer the question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I leave it to the Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*...I leave it to the Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, we will postpone it.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: That would be much better.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: करप्शन के मामले में चेयरमैन साहब को पता कहां से होगा? ... (व्यवधान)... चेयरमैन साहब को ज्यादा पता नहीं है भ्रष्टाचार के मामले में।

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I leave it to you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At least journalists could be asked by the Embassy. Some journalists reported this here. It is not very difficult to find out.

*103. *[The questioner (Shri V. Rajan Chellappa) was absent. For answer, Vide Col. 34 infra]*

Incidental Charges incurred by FCI

*104. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the procurement incidental charges incurred by Food Corporation of India on wheat, rice and sugar per quintal during the last three years; and

(b) the distribution costs per quintal incurred by Food Corporation of India during the last three years on wheat, rice and sugar, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Food Corporation of India has reported that the procurement incidental charges incurred by FCI on wheat, rice and sugar during the last three years are as follows:—

(Rate Rs./quintal)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Wheat	68.95	73.05	73.04
Rice	32.69	31.53	40.25

Levy sugar: (Procurement cost is included in distribution cost)

(b) The FCI has started calculating the distribution cost of wheat and rice separately only from 1993-94. Per quintal cost of distribution in the last three years was as under:—

(Rate Rs./quintal)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Wheat	91.90	120.02	117.44
Rice			124.45
Levy Sugar	118.10	137.07	149.70

SHRI T.VENKATRAM REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently it has come to light that exports have been held up because the FCI has not been organising its collection and distribution activities properly at various ports. How does The FCI propose to resolve such problems? What steps are being taken to ensure that these things do not happen in future?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, this supplementary has nothing to do with the question. The question is about the procurement incidentals and distribution costs incurred by the Food Corporation of India and the question he is asking is about export.

SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Sir, even though the question is not directly relevant, it is affecting the export of the country at a time when we are trying to improve the export. But if the Minister says so, I will accept it. I would like to know what steps are being taken to reduce the cost of procurement and distribution operations.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: This again is a very general questionl. We are taking all steps to reduce the cost of procurement. Basically, the distribution cost depends on the freight. Then the State agencies have mandi charges. Then labour costs are there. Basically, these are the costs and many of these costs are outside the purview of the Food Corporation of India.

The administrative costs are minor costs anyway in the whole operation.

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: Sir, in the answer given by the hon. Minister, the difference between the procurement incidental charges of rice and wheat is very high. The figures supplied by the hon. Minister seem to be very confusing. The distribution charges seem to be very confusing. For the year 1993-94, the wheat procurement charges were Rs. 73.04p per quintal whereas rice procurement charges were Rs.40.25 P per quintal. But when we come to distribution charges, distribution charges in respect of wheat were Rs. 117. 44p whereas distribution charges in respect of rice were very high, that is, Rs. 124-45p. The difference between procurement charges and dirtribution charges in respect of wheat was Rs. 44.40p per quintal whereas in respect of rice it was Rs. 84.20p per quintal . Why was this disparity there between the two charges? Will the Minister explain it?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The first question is why the procurement incidental charges are more for wheat. This is because of the way in which wheat and rice are procured. Wheat is procured directly by the Food Corporation of India and the State agencies. The farmers come to the mandi, wheat is procured, packed and then stored while in case of rice and paddy, only about one-third of the paddy comes to the State agencies or the Food Corporation of India and the rest goes to the millers and they mill it and about 66 per cent of paddy is converted into rice. So, the cost of gunny, the cost of transportation, that is all part of the cost of rice which is procured by the Food Corporation of India. So, therefore, the incidental charges in respect of wheat are more. As far as distribution costs are concerned, there is hardly any difference. During 1993-94, distribution charges were Rs. 117/- in respect of wheat and Rs. 124/- in respect of rice. Sometimes, the difference is there because rice is produced in large quantity in Andhra and Tamil Nadu while wheat-producing surplus States are Punjab and Haryana. So,

the transportation costs from here are more for wheat than rice. Also, sometimes, wheat is stored for a longer period. Therefore, the carrying costs for wheat are also higher.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, I am very much confused with the figures given by the Minister. As regards the incidental charges in respect of rice, in 1991-92, it was Rs. 32.69 paisa. It came down in 1992-93 by about one rupee whereas in 1993-94 it went up to Rs. 40.25. It means there is an increase of 30 per cent as compared to 1992-93 whereas the incidental charges for wheat in 1992-93 were Rs. 73.05. They came down only by one paisa in 1993-94. So I am not able to understand the logic behind all these figures. How is it that in the year 1993-94 it went up by 30 per cent in the case of rice? Will the Minister explain to us the reasons for this? In 1992-93 it came down as compared to 1991-92. I am not able to understand the logic behind all these figures. Will the Minister explain to us the reasons for such a sudden increase of 30 per cent in 1993-94 as far as the incidental charges for rice are concerned?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, there are four factors in the incidental charges. One is statutory charges, taxes, gunnies, etc. Then, there are labour and transport charges, and the third is storage and interest expenses, and the fourth, administrative expenses. So, from year to year, the storage and interest charges can vary quite a lot. It depends on how much surplus was there, for how long it was stored and where it was transported to. These are the factors which explain these differences.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Sir, I too am puzzled. I thought that if there is a direct purchase of wheat by the State trading agencies, the incidentals should be much less than in the case of rice where various intermediaries are involved. So, I wish the Minister would explain to us a little bit more about the mystique of higher incidentals for wheat.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, as I explained, the gunnies is one example. In 1993-94 the figure statutory charges, mandi charges and cost of gunnies in the case of wheat was Rs. 41.57 while in the case rice it was only Rs. 28.39.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Here lies the big puzzle. Why should the incidental charges be higher for wheat when you are procuring wheat directly at one go? This is absurd. This should not happen.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I thought, I explained it in the answer to the first supplementary: the way wheat is procured and the way rice is procured, there is an inherent difference between the two because wheat is produced and is directly taken to the mandi and the FCI and other State trading agencies buy it, store it, but in the case of rice, paddy is there; then it has to be milled. Now, paddy is procured by the State, and by the FCI also, but only two-thirds of the paddy is bought directly by the millers, on which levy charges are put. Each State decides how much levy is to be put; whether 75 per cent of rice is to be procured or 65 per cent of rice is to be procured. It is because of the way it is procured that the incidental charges are different.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: The answer may satisfy the Minsiter himself but it will not satisfy the public.

श्री सुंदर सिंह भण्डारी: मंत्री महोदय, मैं लेवी शुगर के बारे में बात करना चाहता हूं। लेवी शुगर कहीं पर गोदामों में नहीं रहती, मिलों के पास रहती है और जब आप अलग-अलग राज्यों में अलॉट-मेंट करते हैं तो मिलों के नाम पर उतनी शक्कर उस राज्य को दी जाए, यह अलॉट करते हैं। क्या आपके पास ऐसी रिपोर्ट आयी है कि जिन मिलों के नाम पर लेवी शुगर पर्टीकुलर राज्य को रिलीज़ करने के लिए आपने आदेश दिये, उन मिलों ने अनेक कारण बताकर वह शक्कर रिलीज नहीं की? क्योंकि ऐसी भी मिलें हैं जहां पर 100 प्रतिशत ऐक्ज़ाक्शन लेवी शुगर का है। लेकिन उनके नाम पर भी आदेश जारी किये गये कि इस राज्य को लेवी शुगर आप

दीजिए। उन्होंने इस आधार पर वहां शक्कर नहीं दी और राज्य के पास कम मात्रा में लेवी शुगर पहुंची। तो उस समस्या का समाधान आप कैसे निकाल रहे हैं?

श्री अजीत सिंह: महोदय, जैसा सांसद महोदय ने कहा, यह सही है कि जो नयी मिलें हैं, उनके पास 100 प्रतिशत फ्री सेल शुगर है, उनके ऊपर लेवी शुगर नहीं है और ऐसा उनकी जानकारी में है कि किसी मिल को ऐसा आदेश दिया गया, जिस पर लेवी शुगर नहीं लगनी है कि वह लेवी शुगर सप्लाई करे तो हम जरूर जांच करेंगे लेकिन किसी राज्य से हमें ऐसी शिकायत नहीं मिली है कि उनको लेवी शुगर नहीं मिल रही है।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: महाराष्ट्र का मैं उदाहरण दूंगा।

श्री अजीत सिंह: दीजियेगा।

श्री गया सिंह: मंत्री महोदय ने जो सवालों का जवाब दिया है उससे लोग संतुष्ट नहीं हैं। मैं उसमें एक बात यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो आप प्रोक्योरमेंट कर रहे हैं गेहूं का और चावल का उसमें आप कह रहे हैं चार्जेज बढ़ रहे हैं लेकिन गोदामों में जो माल रखा हुआ है क्या आपने इसका भी हिसाब लगाया है कि गेहूं रेनी सीजन में पानी के कारण बर्बाद हो जाता है उसको हटाने में जो लेबर कास्ट लगती है वह चार्जेज भी उसमें जोड़े जाते हैं?

श्री अजीत सिंह: जितना स्टोरेज में वेस्टेज है और दूसरे कारण से वेस्टेज है वह चार्जेज भी उसमें इंक्लूड है। प्रतिवर्ष जितना स्पॉयलेज पीछे हुआ है वह अब प्रतिवर्ष कम होता जा रहा है।

*105. *[The questioner (Shri Mohammed Afzal alias Meem Afzal) was absent. For answer, vide col. 35 infra.]*

Joint Committee for Monitoring the M.Ps.' Local Area Development Scheme

*106 SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the large and important nature of the Scheme of M.Ps.' Local Area Development whether Government will consider establishing a permanent Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament to look into the Scheme from time to time on the lines of the Employment Guarantee Scheme Committee of the Maharashtra Legislature;

(b) if so, when and how; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider it worthwhile to study the set up of Maharashtra Committee to take some benefit from it, if found suitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) The objectives of the Employment Guarantee Scheme of Maharashtra are entirely different from those of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme and hence the requirements of monitoring mechanism for the two schemes need not be identical. There is no proposal presently under the consideration of the Government for establishing a permanent Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament to look into Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme on the lines of Employment Guarantee Scheme Committee of the Maharashtra Legislature.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, my suggestion is that on the lines of the Employment Guarantee Scheme Joint Committee of the Maharashtra Legislature, which has been functioning so well for the last 20 years, a committee of both the Houses of Parliament should be set up and the Government should consider this proposal. Sir, without even studying how the Maharashtra Committee has functioned, the hon. Minister has dismissed my proposal saying that the objectives are different. Sir, I want to say that even the objectives are not at all different. In the EGS Committee of Maharashtra, the objective is creating